

MARKED UP VERSION OF SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATIONApparatus for Arranging Cables in a Vehicle

~~Apparatus for laying at least one cable, in particular in a component of a vehicle, sun visor with an apparatus for laying purposes, and method for laying a cable~~

Cross Reference to Related Applications

[0001] The present Application claims the benefit of priority to the following International Application: PCT Patent Application No. PCT/EP2004/014012 titled "Device For Moving At Least One Cable, In Particular In A Component Of A Vehicle, A Sun Visor Provided With A Moving Device And Method For Moving A Cable" filed on December 9, 2004, which claims priority to German Patent Application No. DE 102004001186.9 filed on January 5, 2004 (which are both incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Field

[0002] The present invention relates to an apparatus, in particular for a component of a vehicle, for example a sun visor, for laying at least one cable.

Background

[0003] Expenditure on cabling in vehicles is typically very high on account of the wide variety of equipment in vehicles. For example, vehicles are often fitted with comfort components with which the journey can be made as comfortable as possible both for the driver and also for passengers. Many equipment components require an electrical connection, and this is complicated in terms of production, and often has to be carried out manually on account of the restricted amount of space, and is therefore usually expensive.

[0004] On account of the small amount of space available in vehicles, it would be desirable that this space should be utilized in an optimum manner.

[0005] The One object of the present invention is therefore to provide a cost-effective apparatus for cabling components, in particular for a vehicle, which is

simple to produce, easy to mount, saves space and with which it is possible to lay the cables in a simple and largely automated manner.

Summary

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[0006] The object is achieved by an apparatus, in particular for a component of a vehicle, for laying at least one cable, wherein the apparatus comprises a guide means, and wherein the cable can be moved to a connector contact-making means by means of the guide means. The guide means makes it easier to lay the cable to the connector contact-making means, so that the cable can be laid in a quick, simple and therefore cost-effective manner.

[0007] The apparatus preferably comprises a transfer device means which is particularly preferably substantially in the form of a funnel. The cable is passed to the guide means through the transfer device means. The funnel shape firstly means that permits the cable can to be inserted very easily into the transfer device means and secondly positioned very precisely on the guide means.

[0008] In one preferred embodiment of the invention, the apparatus comprises the connector contact-making means, so that it is possible to install the apparatus into the components as one assembly. The apparatus can therefore be mounted in a very quick and cost-effective manner.

[0009] The transfer device means preferably has an inlet opening and an outlet opening, wherein the cable can be laid from the inlet opening to the outlet opening, and wherein the cross section of the outlet opening in the laying direction of the cable is approximately the same size as or slightly larger than the sum of the cross sections of all of the cables which are passed through the transfer device means. The cables therefore rest substantially against one another at the outlet opening which is large enough to allow all of the cables to easily pass through it.

[0010] The cross section of the inlet opening in the laying direction of the cable is preferably at least twice the size of the cross section of the outlet opening, so that the cable can be easily inserted at the inlet opening of the transfer device means.

[0011] In one preferred embodiment, a plurality of cables are provided next to one another at the outlet opening, particularly preferably substantially in one plane,

so that they can enter the guide ~~means~~ individually and can ~~from~~ there be passed to the connectors ~~contact-making~~ ~~means~~ individually.

5 [0012] The transfer device ~~means~~ is preferably made of plastic, however, ~~A person skilled in the art knows that any material which is light and easily deformable is suitable.~~

10 [0013] In one preferred embodiment, the guide ~~means~~ has at least one substantially elongate cable guide with at least one substantially L-shaped surface profile and/or at least one substantially U-shaped surface profile transverse to the laying direction of the cable, on which surface profile the cable rests. This ensures that the cable is passed in or along the cable guide without slipping away, and that it is particularly not passed to locations at which the connector ~~contact-making~~ ~~means~~ can no longer make effective contact with it.

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[0014] The guide ~~means~~ preferably has precisely one cable guide for each cable, with a plurality of cable guides being arranged next to one another ~~in particular~~, so that each cable is passed to the connector ~~contact-making~~ ~~means~~ individually and the cables do not become entangled with one another.

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[0015] The guide ~~means~~ preferably has a ramp for deflecting a plurality of cables from an inlet plane, in which the cables enter the guide ~~means~~, into an outlet plane, in which the cables leave the guide ~~means~~. The cables are preferably stiff, so that they at least substantially maintain their laying direction when they leave the guide ~~means~~. The cables are therefore preferably deflected such that they can be positioned advantageously on and/or in the connector ~~contact-making~~ ~~means~~, for example above the connector ~~contact-making~~ ~~means~~. In order for the connector ~~contact-making~~ ~~means~~ to make contact with the cables, said cables are at least partially bent back in the direction of the inlet plane of the cables into the guide ~~means~~ on that side of the guide ~~means~~ on which they leave said guide ~~means~~. Therefore, when subjected to a tensile load which acts on at least one of the cables in the direction opposite the laying direction, the cable is supported at an edge or at a support point which is located at the outer corner of the ramp on the guide ~~means~~ in the outlet plane of the cable. The guide ~~means~~ therefore assumes the function of a strain-relief device ~~means~~ for the cables.

[0016] The plurality of cables are preferably present at the outlet opening of the transfer means device in the inlet plane of the guide ~~means~~, so that the cables can

slide from the transfer means device into the guide means without being left hanging.

5 [0017] In the laying direction of the cables, the cable guides are preferably at least partly bent such that adjacent cables are parallel to one another and rest substantially against one another in the inlet plane, whereas they are spaced apart from one another in the outlet plane. This creates the distance between the cables which is required at the connector contact-making means.

10 [0018] The connectors are contact-making means is preferably in the form of a pressure-connection terminal, in particular an insulation-displacement terminal. The use of a pressure-connection terminal means that the cable can be connected quickly and easily. Expenditure on stripping before contact is made can be saved by using an insulation-displacement terminal. ~~A person skilled in the art knows that~~ However, any connector contact-making means which secures the position of the cable and which can be used to reliably contact-connect the cable to the electronic/electrical system can be used, for example even screw terminals. ~~A person skilled in the art also knows that~~ contact-making means Further, connectors with which expenditure on stripping the cable can be saved are preferably used. 15 20 This also has the advantage that the cables (not stripped) can be laid more effectively, in particular in the transfer device means and/or in the guide means.

25 [0019] In one preferred embodiment, the apparatus is produced integrally, so that expenditure on mounting a plurality of components of the apparatus is minimized or avoided dispensed with. The apparatus can therefore be used in a particularly cost-effective manner in this embodiment.

30 [0020] The inventive apparatus for laying at least one cable makes it possible to lay cables in or for components, in particular in vehicles, in a simple, quick and cost-effective manner. The apparatus can be produced in a cost-effective and simple manner and can be mounted easily.

35 [0021] The present invention also relates to a sun visor, in particular for a vehicle, which has an inventive apparatus for laying at least one cable, for making ~~This means~~ it is possible to connect cables in the sun visor in a simple, quick and cost-effective manner.

[0022] The present invention also relates to a method for laying a cable, in particular for connecting components of vehicles, having an apparatus according to the invention, wherein the cable is laid to the connector contact-making means by means of the apparatus and contact is then made between the cable and the connector contact-making means. This means it is possible to lay the cable simply and quickly.

5 **[0023]** The cable is preferably laid to the connector contact-making means by machine. In this case, the cable is pushed through the transfer device means to the guide means and along the guide means to the connector contact-making means, and there positioned such that it is easy to make contact with said cable. This means that working time can be saved, as a result of which the production costs are reduced.

15 **[0024]** The connector contact-making means is preferably at least one pressure-connection terminal, in particular an insulation-displacement terminal, wherein the cable is laid up to a point above the pressure-connection terminal, wherein the cable is pressed into the pressure-connection terminal by means of the a force which acts on the cable, and wherein contact is made with the cable in the process. 20 This is can be achieved easily and quickly and, in particular, also by machine.

25 **[0025]** The method according to the invention makes it possible to lay cables, in particular in or for connecting components of vehicles, in a simple and quick manner and largely by machine. Said method can also be carried out in a cost-effective manner.

Brief Description of the Figures

30 **[0026]** The invention is described below with reference to figures 1-4. The descriptions are merely exemplary and do not restrict the general concept of the invention.

35 **[0027]** Figure 1 shows one embodiment of the apparatus according to the invention.

[0028] Figure 2 shows one embodiment of a guide means according to the invention.

[0029] Figure 3 shows a side view of the guide ~~means~~ from figure 2.

[0030] Figure 4 shows a sun visor with an apparatus according to one embodiment of the invention.

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Detailed Description

[0031] Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of the inventive apparatus for laying at least one cable 2. The apparatus is suitable for laying two or else more cables 2. 10 It has a, ~~particularly plastic~~, transfer device means 4 which is, ~~in particular~~, shown substantially in the form of a funnel (and made from plastic according to one embodiment). The transfer device means 4 has an inlet opening 5 which is larger than the outlet opening 6, with the two cables 2 leaving the outlet opening 6 such that they are arranged next to one another and in one plane. The plane in which 15 the cables 2 leave the outlet opening 6 of the transfer device means 4 is the same as an inlet plane (illustrated ~~later~~ in figure 2 and figure 3) in which they enter a guide means 7. The guide means 7 has a cable guide 8 for each of the two illustrated cables 2, along which cable guide 8 the cables 2 are passed when they are being pushed through, and also a ramp 9 with which the cables 2 are deflected out of 20 their inlet plane, in particular upward, so that they are positioned above the ~~contact-making means connector~~ 1. The ~~contact-making means connector~~ 1 used here is two insulation-displacement terminals 1, so that, after being pushed through, in each case one of the cables 2 is positioned above a respective one of the insulation-displacement terminals 1 and can be pressed into the latter. Contact 25 is made with the cables 2 in the process. The terms ~~contact-making means connector~~ 1 and insulation-displacement terminal 1 are used synonymously in the following text. Furthermore, an embodiment is also possible in which a plurality of cables 2, for example two cables 2, are deflected by the guide means 7 such that they leave the guide means 7 such that they are arranged one above the other, and 30 are positioned above an insulation-displacement terminal 1 such that they are arranged one above the other. The cables 2 can then be pressed into the insulation-displacement terminal 1 together.

[0032] Figure 2 shows a guide means 7 for cables 2, in particular for two cables 35 2, which has two cable guides 8 and a ramp 9, so that the cables 2 enter the guide means 7 in the inlet plane 10 (~~which has already been mentioned but not together with a reference symbol~~) and leave the guide means 7 in an outlet plane 11.

[0033] Figure 3 shows a side view of the guide ~~means~~ 7 from figure 2 in order to illustrate the ramp 9. Said ~~if~~ Figure 3 shows the profile of a cable 2 in the guide ~~means~~ 7. The cable 2 enters the guide ~~means~~ 7 in the inlet plane 10, is deflected by the ramp 9, and leaves the guide ~~means~~ 7 in the outlet plane 11. After leaving the guide ~~means~~ 7, said cable initially at least substantially maintains the direction of the outlet plane 11 in which it has been deflected by the guide ~~means~~ 7. When contact is made, in this case for example by pressing the cable 2 into the connector contact-making means 1 or into an insulation-displacement terminal 1, the cable 2 is bent back at least partially in the direction of the inlet plane 10 of the cable 2 into the guide ~~means~~ 7. As a result, a contact-connected cable 2' can be supported at a support point 12 when subjected to a tensile load in the direction opposite the laying direction 13, so that the ramp 9 of the guide ~~means~~ 7 acts as a strain-relief means device for the cable 2. The support point 12 is particularly in the form of an edge.

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[0034] Figure 4 illustrates a sun visor 3 as an example of a vehicle component which comprises the inventive apparatus for laying at least one cable 2. Figure 4 shows the connection of cables 2 of the sun visor 3. The cables 2 are pushed through the transfer device means 4, passed along the respective cable guide 8 of the guide ~~means~~ 7 over the connector contact-making means 1, here insulation-displacement terminals, and then pressed into the insulation-displacement terminals 1, where they are contact-connected.

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[0035] The inventive apparatus and the inventive method can be used or employed in a large number of different components, in particular of vehicles, preferably electrically connected components, for example in sun visors 3, in the cockpit or in vehicle doors.

List of reference symbols:

- 1 Contact making means
- 2 Cable
- 2' Cable after contact connection
- 3 Sun visor
- 4 Transfer means
- 5 Inlet opening of the transfer means
- 6 Outlet opening of the transfer means
- 7 Guide means
- 8 Cable guide
- 9 Ramp
- 10 Inlet plane
- 11 Outlet plane
- 12 Support point of the cable after contact connection
- 13 Laying direction

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Patent claims:

What is claimed is:

5 [The claims are provided in the listing of claims shown in the preliminary amendment filed herewith].

Abstract

The invention relates to a A guide device, in particular for a component of a motor vehicle, for example such as a sun visor, which is used to move at least one cable to a connector in the visor (2). The guide device comprises guiding means (7) and 5 includes a cable guide having a ramp for displacing the cable (2) can be displaced by the guiding means (7) toward the connector contacting means (1).